

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEVILL 00099 160953Z
ACTION H-02

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FM AMCONSUL SEVILLE
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UNCLAS SEVILLE 0099

FOR H ACTION

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CDES, SP (WALL, MICHAEL PECK)
SUBJ: ESTATE MICHAEL PECK WALL

REF: STATE 056169, SEVILLE 0065, STATE 038460, SEVILLE 0098,
STATE 057902

RPT BELOW SEVILLE 0065 DATED FEBRUARY 25, 1977 TO SECSTATE
REPORTED MISSING:

QUOTE

1. WHITE HOUSE INTEREST.
 2. REFERENCED CASE DATES BACK TO 1969. OUR FILES INDICATE IT
LAY DORMANT FROM 1974 UNTIL FEBRUARY 1976 DURING WHICH THERE
WAS NO EXCHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE WITH MICHAEL PECK WALL'S
HEIRS OR THEIR ATTORNEY. LETTER CAME FROM JONES OUT OF BLUE
IN FEB 1976 IN EFFECT REASSERTING HEIRS CLAIM AND REQUESTING
OUR ASSISTANCE TO BRING CASE TO ITS LEGAL CONSUMMATION SO INTER
ALIA INHERITANCE LEFT BY WALL IN SPAIN COULD BE DISTRIBUTED TO
HEIRS IN U.S.
 3. FURTHER EXCHANGE OF LETTERS FROM FEBRUARY UNTIL AUGUST 1976
MAINLY FOCUSED ON RESULTS OF OUR CONTACTS WITH SPANISH LAWYERS
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- WHO HANDLED CASE AT THE TIME (RESULTS ESSENTIALLY NEGATIVE) AND
JONES UNDERSTANDABLE EAGERNESS FOR SUBSTANTIAL MOVEMENT IN A
FEW MONTHS ON CASE THAT HAD BEEN DRAGGING FOR ONE REASON OR
ANOTHER FOR SEVEN YEARS. BASED ON OUR EXPERIENCE WITH KNOX
COLLEGE CASE, WE EXPRESSED OUR HOPE THAT SOMETHING MIGHT BE DONE.
4. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT CASE BECAME STUCK IN 1974 WHEN SPANISH

ATTORNEY IN CASE MARIN CARRERO HIRED ATTORNEY IN ARCOS (NAMED PALMA PALMA) TO PETITION COURT AND THEN IMPLEMENT COURT ORDERS THAT CERTAIN PUBLIC NOTICES BE PUBLISHED AND HEIRS NOTIFIED. LAWYER CARRERO SENT REPORT WITH DOCUMENTATION TO WILLIAM H. TAYLOR (ALSO JOHN PAUL JONES' CLIENT) AND REQUESTED 30,000 PESETAS (THEN ABOUT DOLS 550) TO COVER EXPENSES. THIS WAS APPARENTLY IGNORED, TAKING POSITION THAT UNDER U.S. CODE OF LEGAL ETHICS, SUCH PAYMENT NOT IN ORDER PRIOR TO SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE. LAWYERS MARIN CARRERO AND PALMA PALMA HENCEFORTH CEASED FURTHER ACTION.

5. WE ARE NOT PRIVY TO ANY FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE WHICH MAY HAVE OCCURRED BETWEEN INTERESTED PARTIES IN SPAIN AND U.S. DURING INTERIM 1974 - 1976. MATTER RESURRECTED WITH POST LAST FEBRUARY 1976 WHEN JONES WROTE CONSULATE REQUESTING ASSISTANCE. SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH CARRERO REVEALS HIS VIEW THAT PALMA PALMA EFFECTIVELY DROPPED CASE WHEN PAYMENT REQUESTED WAS NOT FORTHCOMING. IN TELEPHONE CONVERSATION PALMA PALMA DENIED THIS, BUT HAS SINCE ASSIDUOUSLY AVOIDED OUR EFFORTS TO GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM, INCLUDING LETTER AND TELEPHONE CALLS. HE HAD PROMISED TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER, BUT THEN NEVER FOLLOWED UP.

6. WE THEN TURNED TO COURT DIRECTLY TO DETERMINE EXACT STATUS OF CASE. PRINCIPAL OFFICER WROTE JUDGE ON JULY 9, 1976 ONLY TO LEARN AFTER NO REPLY THAT JUDGE HAD REMAINED IN ARCOS SHORT TIME AND WAS TRANSFERRED, TAKING LETTER WITH HIM. SECOND LETTER OF AUGUST 8 WAS WRITTEN TO NEW JUDGE APPOINTED, BUT WHO HAD NOT YET ARRIVED. FOLLOW-UP CALLS REVEALED NO ACTION. CURRENT JUDGE IS HARRIED WITH FULL AND OVERFLOWING DOCKET AND APPARENTLY HAS BEEN TOO BUSY TO TAKE MUCH PERSONAL INTEREST IN MATTER. WE HAVE UNCLASSIFIED

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CONTACTED HIM AGAIN BY PHONE, AND HE NOW PROMISES TO REVIEW CASE AT HIS FIRST OPPORTUNITY AND DISCUSS IT WITH PALMA PALMA. WE ARE NOT SANGUINE THAT THIS WILL LEAD ANYWHERE, SINCE KEY ELEMENT APPEARS TO BE INTERESTED ATTORNEYWHO WILL PURSUE THE MATTER WITH THE COURT. IN MEANTIME, WE HAVE NOT HEARD FROM JONES SINCE BEFORE LAST AUGUST, NOR ANY WORD WITH REGARD TO OUR SUGGESTION

THAT HE MIGHT CONSIDER HIRING A NEW LAWYER. IT APPEARS THAT HE HOPES FOR POST TO ACT AS HIS SURROGATE LAWYER OR OTHERWISE DEUS EX MACHINA.T

7. IN SUM, CASE HAS NOT PROGRESSED. SPANISH ATTORNEYS FORMAERLY HANDLING CASE APPEAR DISINTERESTED (INDEED, MARIN CARRERO IS NOW IN INSURANCE BUSINESS IN SEVILLE), AND JUDGE ONLY PROMISES TO REVIEW CASE WITH PALMA (WHO NO LONGER CONSIDERS HIMSELF RETAINED) AT FIRST OPPORTUNITY. BELIEVE IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE FOR US TO SEND JONES CURRENT LIST OF ATTORNEYS AND LET HIM CHOOSE NEW LEGAL HELP IN GETTING CASE SETTLED. IN MEANTIME, WE WILL CONTINUE TO PROD JUDGE IN HOPE HE WILL FOLLOW THROUGH WITH HIS PROMISE TO

LOOK INTO CASE. UNQUOTE.FOUCHE

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